



Attorney Docket no: SEL 229

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Rumo SATAKE

Serial No.: 09/716,885

Filed: November 20, 2000

For: Method Of Driving Liquid Crystal
Display Device

Examiner: D. Lewis

Art Unit: 2673

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RESPONSE (E) TO FINAL REJECTION

Applicant has the following response to the Final Rejection of March 24, 2005, a RCE and one month extension of time being submitted herewith. Applicant will address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the Final Rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner continues to reject Claims 1-5, 17-18, and 26-27 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hartmann (US 4,976,515).¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

¹ Applicant notes that there is no rejection of independent Claim 12 but a detailed discussion of it in

More specifically, in the Final Rejection, the Examiner incorporates by reference his prior rejection (10-06-03) of the claims. In that rejection, the Examiner contended that Hartmann disclosed the claimed method and that item 2 in Fig.1 in Hartmann is the claimed liquid crystalline material having a chiral smectic phase. In reply to Applicants' response, the Examiner further contends that the chiral smectic phase is "inherent to the display" disclosed in Hartmann.² Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Hartmann clearly discloses that item 2 in Fig.1 is a ferro-electric liquid crystalline material. See e.g. Col. 4, lns. 4-5 of Hartmann. The ferro-electric liquid crystalline material in Hartmann is clearly different and distinguishable from "a chiral smectic C_R phase" as recited in independent Claims 1-3 of the present application.

Further, while the Examiner states that the chiral smectic phase is inherent to the display Hartmann teaches, Applicant respectfully submits that Hartmann fails to teach or suggest the chiral smectic phase or that such phase is inherent to the display disclosed in Hartmann. Furthermore, no support is cited by the Examiner to show that the ferro-electric liquid crystalline material of Hartmann is "well known as having a chiral smectic phase." Therefore, Hartmann is not a proper reference, and the Examiner's rejection of these claims is not proper.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, independent Claims 1-3, and those claims dependent thereon, which recite having a chiral smectic phase, are not disclosed or suggested by

the prior Office Action. For at least the reasons explained herein, independent Claim 12 and those dependent thereon are also patentable over Hartmann.

² Applicant notes that independent Claims 1-3 do not recite the limitation "being continuously switched according to an electric field applied thereto" as stated by the Examiner in the prior office action and incorporated by the Examiner in the Final Rejection.

Hartmann and cannot be anticipated by this reference. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 7-9, 11, 14, 16, 20-22, 24, 25, 29-31, 33 and 34

The Examiner also rejects Claims 7-9, 11, 14, 16, 20-22, 24, 25, 29-31, 33 and 34 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hartmann in view of Saishu (US 6,069,600). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims is a dependent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 19 and 28

The Examiner also rejects Claims 6, 19 and 28 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hartmann. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims is a dependent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 23 and 32

The Examiner also rejects Claims 10, 23 and 32 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hartmann in view of Verhulst (US 6,069,604). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims is a dependent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is also including an information disclosure statement (IDS) herewith. As a RCE is also being filed herewith, it is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action in this application.

If any further fee is due for this IDS, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Conclusion

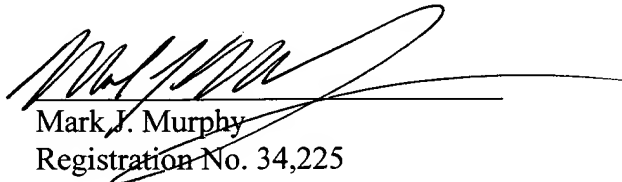
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any further fee should be due for this response, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 25, 2005


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